

From: Laura Hale
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 9:52am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it Concerns:

I have read the Proposed Final Judgement in the Antitrust case against Microsoft and still have concerns that this settlement will not keep Microsoft from engaging in illegal and anticompetitive practices. The current proposed settlement includes loopholes that will allow Microsoft to continue to retaliate against companies and end users that choose alternative operating systems, and does not put in place an adequate system for investigating future infringements by Microsoft. As someone who has worked with technology, specifically technology in nonprofit organizations, I have seen the unsatisfactory results of years of monopolistic behavior from Microsoft and I cannot, in good conscience, recommend or support it this proposed final judgement.

However, I do believe that the amendments put forth by the nine states Attorneys' General and Corporation Counsel from the District of Columbia who did not agree to the proposed settlement is more comprehensive and will curb Microsoft's illegal monopolistic practices. It addresses some of the larger issues missing in the first proposal by creating a "Special Master" with investigative powers that will be able to react quickly to future infractions, and broadening some of the narrow definitions given for terms like API and Windows. I support the inclusion of policies to require Microsoft to:

1. offer a version of Windows with minimal preinstalled software, allowing consumers to better choose which software components they want installed on their computers when originally purchased;
2. package "middleware" software with Windows XP that will allow software applications to run across different operating systems, which will cut down on the myriad of compatibility issues users currently face.
3. share the programming code of Internet Explorer, the company's Internet browser, with other software developers, preventing Microsoft from monopolizing Internet access; and
4. allow other software developers to port Microsoft's Office software suite for use on non-Windows operating systems, permitting non-Windows users to use Microsoft's other products if they choose.

I whole heartedly urge the Court to find that the U.S. Department of Justice proposed final judgement is not in the best interest of the public and to consider the remedies offered by the Attorneys' General and Corporation Counsel from the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Laura Hale
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